

“I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.”

– Revelation 10:1-3

Overview:

God's judgments have been pouring out on the earth in Revelation 8-9 and now starting in Revelation 10, John sees another mighty angel coming down from heaven with a little book open in his hand. Like Revelation 7, we find ourselves in an interlude. A pulling back from the progression of God's wrath being poured out to viewing God's authority and God's mercy and grace. The scene shifts from what is happening on earth to what is happening in heaven.

Another, of the same kind, of angel comes down out of heaven and stands with one foot on the earth and the other foot on the sea showing authority over the entire world. He cries out with a loud voice and the seven thunders respond. John, being obedient to write what he sees and hears, is already to write, but is told by a voice from heaven to “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.” Rev. 10:5b Here is a mystery and as Pastor Chuck Smith says we file this under the heading, 'Awaiting further information'

The angel swears an oath by Him who lives forever and ever and who created everything that there should be delay no longer. John is now commanded to go and take the little book from the angel and after his obedience to God's word, John receives another command to eat the book from the angel. The Christian walk is being obedient to the step God has given us. When we take this step, we discover that God gives us the next step to take.

In Revelation 11, John is given a measuring rod and told to measure the temple of God except for the outer court. This area was given to the Gentiles for 42 months or 3½ years. During this time period, God gives power to His two witnesses to prophesy. They will protect themselves by fire, they will be able to keep rain from falling, turn water into blood, and strike the earth with plagues as often as they desire. No harm will happen to these two witnesses until God's plans are accomplished.

References:

Rev. 10:1 – Another angel, same kind; Gabriel – Rev. 5:2; Jesus – Rev. 1:15-16; Throne of heaven – Rev. 4:3

Rev. 10:3 – Seven thunders – Psalm 29

Rev. 10:4 – Ready to write – Rev. 1:19; Seal up – Daniel 8:26

Rev. 10:6 – Swearing by the one who created; Jesus – Colossians 1:16, John 1:3; God – Hebrews 6:13

Rev. 10:10 – Eat (obedience) – Ezekiel 3:1-3, Jeremiah 15:16; Sweet – Psalm 19:10-11, 119:103, Ezekiel 3:3

Rev. 11:1 – Measuring rod (object lesson) – Jeremiah 18:1-7; 32:6, 11-12, 15, Ezekiel 4:4-6; 2:1-4; 40:1-4

Rev. 11:2 – Given to Gentiles (42 months) – Rev. 13:5, Daniel 9:27, 2 Thessalonians 2:4, Matthew 24:15

Rev. 11:3 – Two witnesses (power) – Daniel 9:27, Malachi 4:5

Rev. 11:4 – Standing before God (position) – Zechariah 4:4-14

Rev. 11:3-8 – Two witnesses – Elijah, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:10-13; 17:3; 16:28; Enoch, 2 Kings 2:11, Genesis 5:24; Moses

Rev. 11:5 – Fire from their mouths (protection) – 2 Kings 1:10-12

Rev. 11:6 – Shut up heaven (purview) – James 5:17, Luke 4:25; Water to blood – Exodus 7:20-21

Questions:

* John sees and hears things that he is not allowed to write about. How do you react when God is silent? When God doesn't reveal to you answers to your questions? Are you able to rest in what He has revealed?

* John is given a series of tasks to accomplish, but he only receives the next task after he has been faithful in completing the last task. How do you respond when God gives you one step at a time? Do you insist on seeing the entire picture before you start being obedient to God's call?

Additional Study:

Rev. 10:1

* Another (*allon*) – another of the same kind

Rev. 10:2

* Little book (*biblaridion*) – little scroll used 4x all here

Rev. 11:1

* (*kalamos homiois rhabdo*) – a measuring stick – 7-10 feet long usu. 6 cubits or 9 feet in length